

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
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E. O. 11652: X- GDS-1
TAGS: PARM, US, GW, NATO
SUBJECT: US SALT BRIEFING TO NAC

SUMMARY: FRG HAS EXPRESSED SERIOUS CONCERN TO EMBOFF
OVER SUBSTANCE AND CHARACTER OF MAY 10 US BRIEFING TO
NAC ON SALT. GERMANS TROUBLED BY US COMMENTS ON FBS AND
NON- CIRCUMVENTION CLAUSE, BY CONTINUED LACK OF CONCRETE
US REACTION TO SALT PAPERS PREPARED BY EUROPEAN ALLIES,
AND BY PRESS REPORTS OF POSSIBLE US/ SOVIET " PARTIAL
AGREEMENT" TO BE ANNOUNCED DURING JUNE VISIT TO US BY
BREZHNEV. END SUMMARY.

1. MENNE, FONOFF DIRECTOR FOR GENERAL AND STRATEGIC
DISARMAMENT, HAS VOICED SERIOUS CONCERN TO EMBOFF OVER
SUBSTANCE AND CHARACTER OF AMB JOHNSON' S MAY 10 BRIEFING
TO NAC ON DEVELOPMENTS IN SALT TWO. MENNE, WHO ATTENDED
US BRIEFING, SAID FRG (AND OTHER EUROPEAN ALLIES) HAD
BEEN UNPLEASANTLY SURPRISED BY APPARENT SHIFTS IN
AMERICAN POSITION ON TWO CRUCIAL ISSUES. FIRST, SAID
EMNNE, AMB JOHNSON SAID IT MIGHT BE EXPEDIENT TO CONSIDER
LIMITING DEPLOYMENT OF FBS THROUGH SOME GENERALLY WORDED
CLAUSE. ON THIS ISSUE, MENNE RECALLED ALLIED CONSENSUS

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THAT FBS ISSUE SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED AT AN EARLY POINT IN SALT TWO, AND SHOULD BE TREATED, IF ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY, IN THE WAY LEAST LIKELY TO IMPAIR ALLIED INTERESTS. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, AND GIVEN COMMENTS MADE TO GERMAN LEADERS DURING MAY 1-2 VISIT TO WASHINGTON, MENNE SAID US SUGGESTION OF EARLY SOVIET-AMERICAN DISCUSSION OF FBS IS BOTH PUZZLING AND WORRISOME TO GERMANS.

2. SECOND, MENNE NOTED THAT NON- CIRCUMVENTION LANGUAGE IN AMB JOHNSON' S BRIEFING STATEMENT VARIED FROM THE FORMULATION WHICH THE FRG HAD PROPOSED IN FEB 1971 AND WHICH, SAID MENNE, ALSO HAD SECURED CONSENSUS SUPPORT AMONG THE ALLIES. (EARLIER GERMAN FORMULATION READ: " THE PARTIES ENGAGE THEMSELVES NOT TO UNDERTAKE MANIPULATIONS OF SYSTEMS NOT LIMITED BY THE AGREEMENT AND LIKELY TO IMPAIR SIGNIFICANT STRATEGIC STABILITY.") MENNE INQUIRED REGARDING REASONS FOR THE NEW US FORMULATION, EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE US BRIEFING HAD NOT REFLECTED FULLY EARLIER ALLIED STATEMENTS ON THE NON- CIRCUMVENTION PROBLEM AND EXPRESSED SOME DISQUIETUDE THAT THE NEW US FORMULATION MIGHT NOT PROVIDE ADEQUATE PROTECTION OF ALLIED INTERESTS.

3. MENNE THEN REITERATED THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS WHICH HE SAID HAD ARISEN IN THE NAC DEBATE. WHAT WOULD SUCH A CLAUSE PREVENT OR PERMIT? WHAT FORM COULD SOVIET CIRCUMVENTION BE LIKELY TO TAKE? WHAT CONSIDERATIONS HAVE MADE UNAVOIDABLE A DISCUSSION AT THIS TIME OF NON- CENTRAL SYSTEMS? WILL WE (I. E., THE EUROPEAN ALLIES) BE ACCORDED A ROLE IN THE DEFINITIVE DRAFTING OF A NON- CIRCUMVENTION CLAUSE? WILL SUCH A NON- CIRCUMVENTION CLAUSE PROTECT EUROPEAN ALLIED INTERESTS TO THE SAME DEGREE AS THE EARLIER GERMAN FORMULATION?

4. TURNING TO THE PROCESS OF ALLIED CONSULTATIONS DURING SALT TWO, MENNE VOICED CONCERN OVER THE PRESISTING LACK OF CONCRETE US REACTION TO THE PAPERS PREPARED BY THE EUROPEAN ALLIES. HE SAID HE WISHED TO EMPHASIZE THAT THESE PAPERS WERE TAKEN VERY SERIOUSLY BY THE ALLIED GOVERNMENTS AND THAT BONN WAS DISAPPOINTED AND
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PUZZLED OVER THE CONTINUED SILENCE FROM WASHINGTON CONVERNING THESE PAPERS. MENNE ALSO VOICED REGRET THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO POSSIBILITY FOR ALLIED EXPERTS TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH WORKING LEVEL REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE US SALT DEL.

5. FINALLY, MENNE NOTED PRESS REPORTS WHICH TOGETHER

WITH AMB JOHNSON' S BRIEFING, THE KISSINGER VISIT TO MOSCOW AND " OTHER INDICATIONS", SUGGESTED THE PROSPECT OF A " PARTIAL AGREEMENT" OR NEW US/ SOVIET DECLARATION A LA MAY 1971 DURING THE JUNE BREZHNEV VISIT TO WASHINGTON. MENNE HAD RECEIVED SOME INDICATION THAT QUALITATIVE MATTERS SUCH AS MRV AND MIRV MIGHT BE THE OBJECT OF SUCH AN ACCORD. MENNE SAID HE TRUSTED THE EUROPEAN ALLIES WOULD HAVE THE BENEFIT OF BEING BRIEFED AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME IN ADVANCE OF SUCH A STEP.

6. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED A REPORT OF THE US BRIEFING FROM AMERICAN SOURCES, WE ARE REPORTING THE ABOVE FOR WASHINGTON' S INFORMATION.
HILLENBRAND

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